

get up and say that I agree with Senator Vard Johnson in point in what he is saying at least as a matter of principle. We do have a problem. This is not a good time to be spending money on recreational facilities. We are looking at making some very tough decisions on closing the Curtis Ag School, on closing some colleges of nursing, on eliminating a division of continuing studies. The people in Nebraska look at that from afar and say, why is it that there is money to spend fourteen point whatever million on a recreation center and not money to fund these academic programs? It has often been said that when people understand this issue then they will be all for it. Well, I'll tell you that there are a lot of people that understand this issue fully and have a real problem with it. I passed out this morning a resolution, an article about a resolution from the faculty senate wishing to delay this issue. I offered, being a good student, as I'm still young to listen to my professors, I offered that amendment in committee and it failed for lack of a second, but I also have a problem with the students on this issue. I think it's a real problem of society and a real problem in Nebraska when you can get 500 students to show up for a hearing where they are asking for a student fee increase and you have 30 students show up for a budget hearing where you're slicing 15 million out of the university's budget. You have two students show up for a Student Scholarship Assistance Act and you have zero students showing up for LB 609 which is a grant program. Where are the students when we need them to stand up for themselves? I guess what it comes down to though, though I agree with Senator Vard Johnson, the time is not right, it's not good, it comes down to a simple choice. We have the choice here today between an underfunded, underfinanced university with a rec center or an underfunded, underfinanced university without a rec center. I guess maybe I'm throwing in the towel, I have a problem with society, but that's a simple choice and because of that I choose to have an underfunded university at least with a rec center. So I urge you to defeat the Vard Johnson amendment and support passage of the resolution. Thank you. I would give the rest of my time to Senator Baack.

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, you have two and a half minutes left.

SENATOR BAACK: Thank you. Mr. President, members, I rise in opposition to Senator Vard Johnson's amendment and also in support of the resolution for the rec center at the university. Senator Johnson brings up a good point when he talks about pitting academics against athletics and it is something that I certainly wouldn't want to do. I've always been a supporter of